

Driving knowledge on food safety, animal and plant health: SPS capacity evaluation tools in action

SPS tools in brief

Countries are encouraged to review and assess their capacity on food safety, animal and plant health using the tools developed by STDF partners:

- OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway
- IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool
- FAO/WHO National Food Control Systems Assessment Tool

The tools provide the evidence and knowledge for countries to make informed decisions about SPS investments that can drive change, identifying priority actions and next steps.



Building capacity through partnership

Promoting food safety, animal and plant health is vital for countries to protect health, access markets and trade, which in turn supports economic growth and livelihoods. For developing countries, this means putting in place sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to meet the international standards set out in the WTO SPS Agreement. These are the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The STDF global partnership of international and regional organizations, donors and experts works with developing country governments and the private sector to tackle SPS capacity gaps. STDF's coordination platform, knowledge hub and projects across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean help to develop global public goods in food safety, animal and plant health, which in turn supports the UN's 2030 agenda on sustainable development.

Evaluating SPS capacity is a first step to identify and address priorities, including the development of needs-based projects. The STDF provides developing countries with the latest information on practical tools, good practice and innovative solutions to SPS challenges to help countries trade safely. This includes encouragement to use the OIE, IPPC and FAO/WHO capacity evaluation tools. STDF support played a key role in developing the OIE PVS Tool, and in piloting the PCE and Food Control Assessment Tool. Developing countries can request support from STDF Project Preparation Grants (up to US\$50,000) to use the tools and build their knowledge and capacity on SPS requirements.¹

Regional organizations have also developed SPS assessment tools, methodologies and approaches. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), for example, has SPS-related tools for Veterinary Services,² National Plant Protection Organizations,³ food safety services,⁴ and institutional capacity.⁵

SPS tools checklist: how countries benefit

Independent evaluation of SPS needs ▪ Builds awareness around SPS issues ▪ Facilitates dialogue with donors ▪ Forms the basis of resource mobilization ▪ Provides a baseline to measure impacts of an intervention

¹ www.standardsfacility.org/project-preparation-grants

² <http://repiica.iica.int/docs/B0750I/B0750I.pdf>

³ <http://repiica.iica.int/DOCS/B2117I/B2117I.PDF>

⁴ <http://repiica.iica.int/docs/B0701I/B0701I.PDF>

⁵ <http://repiica.iica.int/DOCS/B0744I/B0744I.PDF>

Shaping solutions in animal health

OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway

"PVS results made us aware of the improvements that are needed within our Veterinary Services in order to build our staff capacities."

Dr Pudjiatmoko, Director of Animal Health, Indonesia

Leveraging resources in Indonesia

The OIE PVS Pathway missions in Indonesia in 2007 and 2010 identified national priorities for capacity building. The Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services made significant progress taking forward recommendations from the OIE PVS Evaluations and OIE PVS Gap Analysis. Based on the PVS Pathway recommendations prioritized by the government, the AUD\$22 million Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases (AIP-EID) programme provided carefully aligned technical and resourcing support.

The human, physical and financial resources of Veterinary Services improved. Technical know-how, including across the laboratory network, was built up on disease prevention and control, emergency preparedness and response, animal health quarantine and inspection. Disease reporting from the field increased with electronic systems and legislation was developed and amended.

Animal health institutions and the capabilities of government and partners to deliver Veterinary Services were strengthened. As a result, Indonesia is now better able to prevent, detect and control emerging and important endemic infectious diseases.

At a glance

The **OIE PVS Pathway** is a voluntary, multi-step process to help a country's Veterinary Services meet OIE international standards. Given the potential for animal diseases and zoonoses to cross borders, including through trade, improved Veterinary Services are a global public good that makes a critical contribution to national development.

- The basis of the **OIE PVS Pathway** is the **OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool)**, based on the OIE Codes.
- **OIE PVS Evaluation** involves independent and certified experts applying the PVS Tool based on document review, interviews and observations nationwide. A draft report is submitted to peer review, then approved by the country before finalization.

- **OIE PVS Gap Analysis** provides planning and an indicative cost estimate (budget) for five years. A team works with a country's Veterinary Services to develop a detailed strategy using the PVS Evaluation baseline. Findings and recommendations help mobilize resources from government or donors.

The PVS Tool and related processes have evolved and been used successfully in over 130 countries over the last ten years. Many countries are at the PVS Evaluation Follow-Up stage, using a consistent methodology to track performance of Veterinary Services over time.

The OIE PVS Pathway is evolving with PVS training (including self-evaluation), support to national strategic planning, specific content (on priority issues in missions and reports) and links to the WHO International Health Regulations Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.



Support available

Based on PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis findings, countries can request specific technical assistance from the OIE on legislation, laboratories, veterinary statutory bodies, and education. For more information: www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/pvs-pathway

Promoting progress in plant health

IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool

“With the support of its partners, including the STDF, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Plant Protection Convention, our country has updated its sanitary and phytosanitary legislation. It was important for us to support this law, which we unanimously adopted to ensure the well-being of our people.”

Hadjira Oumouri, Assembly of the Union of the Comoros

Driving changes in legislation in Comoros

Comoros relies on food imports, which are also sources for the introduction of plant diseases. Bananas, coconut palms, cassava and cash crops have been attacked many times over the past decade, posing a threat to food security and the economy.

In April 2017, with support from the STDF, Comoros applied the PCE tool. Facilitated by IPPC, stakeholders came together to map existing gaps on plant health countrywide. A number of challenges were identified related to the lack of strategic direction, weak import certification, limited pest risk analysis and outdated national phytosanitary legislation.

One of the immediate results was the adoption by Parliament of new phytosanitary legislation in line with IPPC standards and the WTO SPS Agreement. This legislation paved the way for the creation of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), with financial resources allocated by central government for staffing and operations. Up-to-date plant health legislation in Comoros – backed up by an operational NPPO – provides a stronger framework to promote agricultural exports. Combined with a new phytosanitary capacity development strategy, this is helping to improve market access and food security, and to protect agricultural production and the environment. The country is working with support from FAO/UNDP to attract further investment in the process.

At a glance

To protect plants from pests, strong national phytosanitary systems need to be in place. NPPOs are responsible for meeting IPPC standards. The IPPC provides the framework for technical assistance to countries using the **Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool (PCE)**. The PCE is a web-based evaluation tool made up of 13 modules (which represent the elements of an effective phytosanitary system). NPPOs can select and apply these modules as a whole or in clusters.

The PCE helps a country identify its strengths and gaps in existing and planned phytosanitary systems. The strategic plans developed through PCEs provide the basis for dialogue with donors, improving the likelihood of accessing funding to strengthen phytosanitary systems.

To date, 121 countries in 7 regions have benefitted from the PCE, with positive results.



Support available

The IPPC works in close collaboration with donors to provide support for countries to use the tool. Countries can contact the IPPC to conduct a PCE. For more information: www.ippc.int/en/pce

Improving interventions on food safety FAO/WHO National Food Control Systems Assessment Tool

"By enabling a measure of progress, the Tool promotes accountability among various stakeholders that are concerned with food control, between technical agencies and the highest level of Government, and between donors and Government. Accountability that makes sure that investment does lead to concrete and targeted improvement."

Renata Clarke, Senior Food Safety and Quality Officer, FAO

Fuelling dialogue across Zimbabwe's authorities

Zimbabwe's national food control system involves many different players including the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, the Food Safety Advisory Board, farmer groups and industry. With a fragmented food control legislation, coordination among different parts of government was an ongoing challenge. In 2017, by applying the FAO/WHO tool, Zimbabwe was able to identify and measure gaps in its food control system. Thanks to the tool, the country could map and better understand the diverse roles and relationships involved, including the mandates of competent authorities, in turn supporting stronger dialogue across the system.

At a glance

Measuring the effectiveness of food control systems is important to ensure that resources are well used and to support capacity development. The **FAO/WHO National Food Control Systems Assessment Tool** aims to support countries to review their national food control system and the performance of competent authorities contributing to it.

This new tool builds on the Codex Principles for Guidelines on National Food Control Systems and other Codex guidelines, as well as FAO/WHO good practice. Results from the assessment process, based on the tool, guide the development of well-defined priorities and roadmaps to improve food control systems, and provide a useful baseline to monitor

progress. The reports produced are confidential, but governments can decide to share them with trading partners and other stakeholders to show transparency and a commitment to making improvements. The assessment results support the preparation of structured frameworks, from log-frames to ranked priorities, which can help governments direct and integrate national investment with donor assistance.

The tool is being pilot tested in Indonesia, Iran, Malawi, Moldova, Morocco, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Zambia and Zimbabwe and is scheduled for release at the end of 2017.



Support available

The tool is set up as a self-assessment for countries. Upon request, FAO/WHO are looking to provide support for countries in the process. For more information: www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/capacity-development/needs-assessment/en